

**REMARKS**

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated August 8, 2006. That Office Action addressed on the merits claims 1, 3-6, 8 and 10 directed to the elected species. Claims 2, 7, 9, 11-14 and 17-38 are pending. Claims 2, 7, 9, and 11-14 stand withdrawn from consideration as directed to a non-elected species. It is noted that new claims 34 and 36 depend from the claims standing withdrawn from consideration.

The specification has been amended to clarify the meaning of certain portions. No new matter has been added by these clarifying amendments.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph on the basis of a number of informalities identified by the Examiner. Those claims have now been cancelled in favor of new claims 17-33, 35 and 37-38. It is respectfully submitted that the new claims suffer from none of the informalities or concerns addressed in the Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection under §112 should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3-4, 8 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC §102 as anticipated by Ginster et al. Claims 1, 3-5 and 10 were rejected as anticipated by Weiskopf. Claims 1, 5-6 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC §102 as anticipated by Irsh et al. It is respectfully submitted that the references, either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the subject matter presently recited.

Independent claim 17 recites that the present invention is a tensioning system for a mobile telescopic crane having a telescopic mast. The tensioning system comprises a tensioning cable anchored at a first point adjacent a lower portion of the telescopic mast. The tensioning cable extends along the mast substantially parallel to the axis thereof to a joining point associated with an extended jib section of the mast. The tensioning cable further extends from the joining point to a second point. A tensioning device for tensioning the cable throughout its length from the first point to the second point is provided to thereby create a pressure bias within the mast

between the first point and the joining point. This subject matter is not taught by nor suggested by any of the references.

Ginster et al., GB 2,096,097, does not teach the subject matter recited. The tensioning cables 13 and Ginster et al. do not include any portion extending substantially parallel to the axis of the extendable mast between a first point adjacent a lower portion of the mast and a joining point associated with an extended jib section of the mast. Thus, Ginster does not and cannot achieve the results of the present invention.

Weiskopf discloses an apparatus which includes several cables 22 extending between various points along the extendable mast and a sheave 24. Cable 22 of Weiskopf additionally extends from a sheave 26 associated with the non-extendable base section of the mast, along the exterior of the non-extendable base section to the lower-most portion thereof. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Weiskopf of a tensioning cable anchored at a lower portion of a telescopic mast and extending parallel to the axis of the mast to a joining point associated with an extended jib section, as required by the present invention recited in claim 17. Accordingly, Weiskopf does not teach or suggest the present invention nor the advantages obtained by the invention in pre-stressing, enhancing the lifting capacity of, and stabilizing a telescopic mast.

Finally, Irsh et al. disclose a telescopic crane having guy supports 2 and associated, laterally-extending stabilizing cables 46. However, there is no suggestion whatsoever of a tensioning cable extending between an anchor at a first point adjacent a lower portion of the telescopic mast, extending substantially parallel to the axis of the mast to a joining point associated with an extended jib section, as presently recited.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 17 defines subject matter which is not taught by nor remotely suggested by any of the references relied upon. Allowance of claim 17 is respectfully solicited.

Claims 2, 7, 9, 11-14 and 18-38 depend on claim 17, directly or indirectly, incorporating the allowable subject matter thereof and reciting additional features and details which are also not suggested by the references. Moreover, to the extent that any of the other claims may be directed to additional species of the invention, all claims incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 17. Accordingly, all claims should be rejoined and allowed for at least the reasons set forth above.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number of (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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